



MARINE BALL OUTDRIVE ASSEMBLY

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No.

5 60/455,659, filed March 19, 2003.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

Not Applicable.

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REFERENCE TO A MICROFICHE APPENDIX

Not Applicable.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 TECHNICAL FIELD

This invention relates to a marine ball outdrive assembly and, more particularly, to a marine ball and socket outdrive assembly for allowing an operator to selectively rotate the outdrive and thereby eliminate the necessity for a separate shift mechanism and other like accessories.

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PRIOR ART

The majority of outdrive repair problems are not associated with the drive components (shafts, bearings, etc.) but more often accessory components such as water pumps, shifting mechanisms, water conduits etc., which are typically encased within the outdrive housing along with the drive components. Servicing such accessory components requires a time-consuming and tedious disassembly of the outdrive housing, which typically compromises the housings, seals and shafts that are not the cause of the service. By eliminating the need for a shifting mechanism and associated accessories, many problems associated with conventional accessories disposed with the outdrive housing can be effectively eliminated.

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